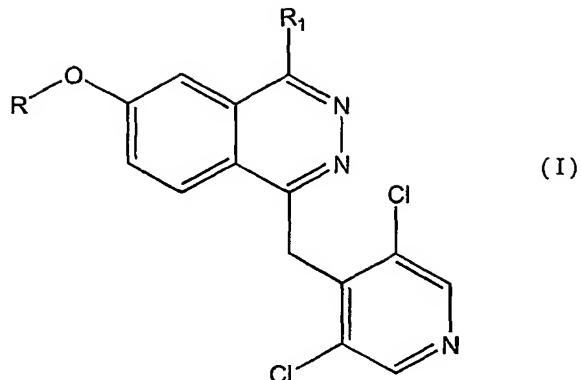


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Claims

1) A compound of formula

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wherein

R is methyl or a difluoromethyl group;

R₁ is phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered aromatic heterocycle containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms

15 selected among nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and bonded to the phthalazine nucleus by a carbon-carbon bond, both the phenyl and the heterocycle being substituted with a carboxy group and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-acetylarnino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino;

20 the N-oxidised derivatives of the compounds of formula I and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁ is phenyl substituted with a carboxy group and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-acetylarnino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino.3) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R₁ is phenyl substituted with a carboxy group and particularly the carboxy group is in meta position with regard to the phthalazine nucleus.25 4) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁ is a 5 or 6 membered aromatic heterocycle containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected among nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and bonded to the phthalazine nucleus by a carbon-carbon bond, substituted with a carboxy group and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-acetylarnino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino;

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5) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

4-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

5 2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-nitro-benzoic acid;

5-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-2-methoxy-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-4-methoxy-benzoic

10 acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-methanesulfonyl-amino-benzoic acid;

3-Acetylamino-5-[4-(3,5-dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

15 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-methoxy-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-difluoromethoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid;

20 2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid;

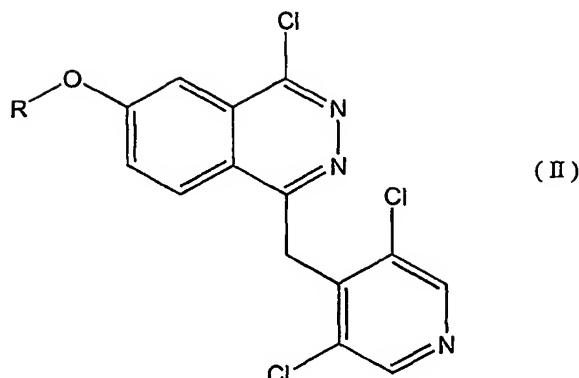
(2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-propane-1,3-diol) salt of 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

25 N-methyl-glucamine salt of 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

6) A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1 by an aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction or a coupling reaction, in presence of a catalyst such as for example palladium, between a compound of formula

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(II)

10 wherein

R has the meanings reported for the compounds of formula I;

and a reactant such as a tin or boronic acid derivative, suitable for the substitution of the halogen atom directly bonded to the phthalazine nucleus with a phenyl or a heterocycle substituted with a carboxy group and optionally with a second functional group defined in the meanings of R₁ in formula I.

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7) A process according to claim 6 wherein the coupling reaction is carried out between the compounds of formula II and the proper boronic acid in presence of palladium, triphenylphosphine and an aqueous solution of potassium carbonate.

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8) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of allergic and inflammatory diseases

10) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of respiratory diseases.